

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Richard Meyers, City Manager
SUBJECT: Friday Update
DATE: March 12, 2021

COVID 19 Drive-up Vaccinations

Starting Friday, March 19 there will be a drive-up COVID -19 vaccination clinic in the Bohemia Park parking lot from 10:00 am to noon for residents age 65 or older. Thank you to McCoy's Pharmacy for partnering with the City to help make sure members of the community get every opportunity to receive the vaccine. The drive-up clinic is in addition to the vaccine availability at several local pharmacies. The number of doses will be limited so pre-registration is strongly recommended. To register contact Teresa or Jessica at the Community Center at (541)942-1185. Please bring your insurance or Medicare card to the drive-up COVID-19 vaccine clinic. This vaccine clinic will be available every Friday until further notice. Watch for announcements on what ages will be accepted at the future clinics.

Youth Advisory Council

The Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council will be meeting on Monday, March 15th from 6:15 to 7:15 pm.

ShakeAlert

On Thursday, March 11th, which was incidentally the 10th anniversary of the Tohoku Japan earthquake and tsunami, the USGS ShakeAlert® Earthquake Early Warning System was activated in Oregon. There are no tests of the system scheduled at this time.

ShakeAlert® uses science and technology to detect significant earthquakes quickly and sends a real time alert to people on compatible cell phones and other mobile devices through text-like messages, and through apps as they become available. These important alerts come automatically on most cell phones, making a distinctive sound and displaying a text message that reads, **“Earthquake Detected! Drop, Cover, Hold On. Protect Yourself”**. This text message is also available in Spanish. Some mobile phones with text-to-voice capability may read out the message text.



ShakeAlert does not predict when or where an earthquake will occur or how long it will last. It detects earthquakes that have already begun, offering seconds of advance warning that allow people and systems to take actions to protect life and property from destructive shaking.

ShakeAlert infrastructure is already in place along most of the West Coast and can be used to trigger automatic-action systems, such as slowing a train, water utility valve shutoffs, opening fire station doors and starting back-up generators.

No sign up is required to receive ShakeAlert notifications, and no action needs to be taken other than enabling emergency alerts on your cell phone. To do this, check that Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) are turned on. Mobile phones that have WEAs turned on are able to receive ShakeAlert Messages starting March 11, 2021. While this setting may already be turned on in your settings on your mobile phone, please take the time to check.

Visit the Oregon Emergency Management website at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oem/hazardsprep/Pages/orshakealert.aspx> for more information to make sure your phone is set up to alert you. Please don't waste a minute to make sure you can receive these lifesaving alerts to your phone, your friends and family member's phones. Do it today.

COVID -19 Moderate Level and the Bounce is Back

Lane County moved to the Moderate level today. The move brought a wealth of wonderful changes to the community – with higher capacities for indoor dining to outdoor full contact sports being allowed. The beautiful weather brought a number people to Coiner Park and to experience the refurbished basketball courts. Finally, everyone gets to experience the new courts. Masks, distancing, hand washing and maintaining small groups is still essential to make sure that we can stay at Moderate or even get to the Lower Risk level.

Mayor and City Manager Statement

Today, Mayor Gowing and the City Manager issued the following statement regarding comments that were made about a local volunteer:

It has recently come to our attention that individuals within the community are belittling, demeaning and attacking a volunteer with the City of Cottage Grove because of mental health issues. We find such behavior disgusting, prejudicial and entirely inappropriate. Such behaviors are based solely in hate and fear. For years the City of Cottage Grove has supported efforts to strengthen the access to mental health services and fought against prejudicial or discriminatory actions or comments that continue to perpetuate the stigma associated with mental health challenges that our citizens face. Mental health issues must be treated the same as any other medical or physical condition. Statements or actions that question the abilities, belittle or discriminate against anyone who received treatment for mental health challenges or who are addressing mental health issues are not appropriate in a civil and respectful community. Such actions must be identified for what they are, discrimination and prejudice. We will not be intimidated by such demeaning and prejudicial actions or statements. We will also do all in our power to identify such behaviors and protect all members of our community from such mistreatment. All selections of employment or volunteer service within the City of Cottage Grove are and will be based on bon-a-fide job qualifications and we will not be intimidated by prejudicial or discriminatory comments, behaviors or accusations.

Assistant to the City Manager Announced

After receiving 27 applications by the February 5th deadline the City Manager announced the conclusion of a month long evaluation process today with the selection of an Assistant to the City Manager. The process began by reviewing all 27 applications and scoring the applications based on job requirements and the application materials submitted.

The based on scoring the pool was narrowed to ten applications that were then provided “homework” assignments that required responses to be submitted within just a few days. The responses submitted were then anonymized. All identifying information was removed from the responses, names, phone numbers, locations etc. The responses were then evaluated by a panel that included the City Manager and Department heads and an outside retired City Manager with extensive experience in Oregon. Three candidates rose to a natural break from the other applicants.

The three finalists included two local candidates and one out of state candidate. All three candidates participated in an hour long in-person interview with the interview panel. All three candidates were amazing and did very well in the interviews. The scoring results were close and demonstrated the high caliber of applicants. The references for the highest scoring candidate, which included state officials and other City Managers were contacted and verified the information learned from the selection process.

As a result the City Manager has offered the Assistant to the City Manager position to Jake Boone. Jake has accepted the position and will begin work on Monday, March 15th. We are very excited to be welcoming Jake to the role and look forward to really hit the ground running on Monday. Thank you to all the applicants that demonstrated interest in the position. We hope to see many of them again with future recruitments with the City. Also a thank you to all those that helped through the selection process.

Do you Ride the LTD Connector

LTD is working to improve its Cottage Grove Connector service and will be launching a new smartphone app. The new "LTD Connector" mobile app is now available for download at the iOS App Store and Google Play and will begin scheduling trips on March 16th. Riders will continue to use the TransLoc mobile app or website until March 15th, at which time they will be required to either download the “LTD Connector” app or call to schedule a ride. If you ride and choose not to schedule your trips through the mobile app, you can still call (541) 942-0456 ext. 1. For more information and to view a video on how to use the app visit www.LTD.org/ltd-connector.

Quote of the Week:

“Bloom where you are planted.”

~Mary Englebreight~